

Reissue (T1274)

From: WASHINGTON

To: MOSCOW

Nos: 834, 846-848

18 April 1943

[Part I]

To [Name no. 42][i].

[5 groups unrecovered] the following about the NATIVES[TUZENTsY][ii] and their methods of work with the personnel [5 groups unrecovered].

1. Commander ERDMAN[iii] -- head of a group of NATIVES,

[7 groups unrecovered].

In a drunken condition he spoke indiscreetly

[13 groups unrecoverable]

I assume during the period 1918-21.

[11 groups unrecovered],

evacuated to

[10 groups unrecovered]

(D% these languages

[37 groups unrecoverable]

ERDMAN

[9 groups unrecovered]

a) ERDMAN

[4 groups unrecovered]

Concerning this one of the interpreters who has been assigned to us (Lieutenant PLATKIPS[iv]) spoke indiscreetly [2 groups unrecovered] refused to fulfill this

[62 groups unrecoverable]

d) I switched MOL"s[v] telephone over to my switchboard for monitoring.

e) At a reception at MOL"s place in a conversation with Captain Third Rank KhMYROV[vi] he[a] stated that they wanted to get him drunk and that our people behave "like snakes in the grass".

~~TOP SECRET~~

VENONA

2.

[Part II]

- f) In a personal letter the Chief of the Shipbuilders, who is in contact with us on shipbuilding matters, said that he could not give us radar. This was discovered when FINK[vii] put some oblique questions to the Department of the Navy [MORSKOE MINISTERSTVO].
- g) Under [1 group unrecovered] of ERDMAN Captain DONALD[viii], one of the acceptance officers at the plant[b] who is loyal to us, has been taken off the work.

2. [C% Informants] of the Intelligence Service [RAZVEDKA].

- a) Interpreters: Lieutenant ANIKEEV[ix] who came from ODESSA in 1922, Lieutenant PLOTKINS who is the son of a SARATOV merchant, emigrated in 1926 and (2 groups unrecovered) was the only worker free

[22 groups unrecoverable]

readily[c], old sailors (over 40 years of age) no doubt dressed [B% in civilian clothes], sailors or intelligence men dressed as sailors who speak Russian, a unit of whom were specially moved to Florida, military intelligence men of the American Army particularly -- [C% Poles], clerks [1 group unrecovered] [D% at the] bases and others.

[Part III] Organization and method of work:

1. Secret surveillance by counter-espionage agents, for example at the tailor's where our people order uniforms, several cases of shadowing etc. have been noticed.
2. Special surveillance in key bases.
3. Throwing light on the functions of Deputy Commanders and their real role (Deputies for Political Matters[POMPOLIT]).
4. Discovering the attitude of the enlisted men towards the command, towards drink and women.
5. Finding out how Comrade STALIN is regarded and attempting to discredit him in the eyes of Red Fleet seamen.
6. Bringing to light dissatisfaction among Red Fleet seamen, boasting about their own standards of living, and attempting to win their confidence.
7. Attempting to get them drunk and to corrupt them by using women.
8. The suggestion made to Red Seaman BUSHUEV[x]

[14 groups unrecoverable]

carbon paper

[11 groups unrecovered]

the NATIVES.

10. Finding out the geographical

~~TOP SECRET~~

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[30 groups unrecovered].

[Part IV]

I have given instructions to RUSSEL[ROSSEL']^[xi] [2 groups unrecovered] with ERDMAN and the NATIVES

[30 groups unrecovered]

with the NATIVES by well-wishers

[35 groups unrecovered]
[45 groups unrecoverable]

not to give a visa^[d] for permanent work with us^[xii]. When the opportunity occurs this material should be used for presenting the NATIVES with the bill. Discipline in the unit is good and many NATIVES make favorable comments [2 groups unrecovered] there was the case of the two Red Seamen LADYGIN and LADYSHKIN who were sent back in a drunken condition. Details by letter. I^[e] gave KENT^[xiii] and JIM[DZHIM]^[xiv] instructions [2 groups unrecovered] a search locally and to brief RUSSEL's people.

3. A report about ERDMAN should be sent to the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs[NARKOMINDEL]. I advise against sending the crews of the next minesweepers until the ships [have reached a state of]^[f] preliminary readiness. Please [1 group unrecovered] this material to STEPANOV^[xv].

Nos. 287, 294, 296

[Name no. 91]^[xvi]

Notes: ^[a] The antecedent is not clear.
^[b] "plant," "factory" or "yard"[ZAVOD].
^[c] readily^[BOJKO]: This could possibly be the surname BOJKO, but in this context the adverb seems more likely.
^[d] "visa" or "visas."
^[e] "I," "we," "he," or "they."
^[f] Inserted by translator.

Comments:

- ^[i] [Name no. 42]: Possibly Capt. (1st Rank) M.A. VORONTsOV.
- ^[ii] TUZENTsY: the NATIVES, an unidentified cover-term. (Also see Stockholm-Moscow message nos. 698-699 of 1 March 1943.)
- ^[iii] Commander Robert Park ERDMAN who in February 1943 was Officer in Charge of Liaison Personnel with the Soviet Government. As of 1942 he was to act as Liaison Officer for the Russian officers and crew who were to man minesweepers being built at the Tampa Shipbuilding Corporation.
- ^[iv] Presumably an error for Lt. Maurice Frank PLOTKINS who was assigned to the staff of Cmdr. ERDMAN in ST. PETERSBURG, Florida in December 1943.
- ^[v] MOL': Capt. (3rd Rank) Mikhail Nikolaevich MOL' of the Soviet Government Purchasing Commission.
- ^[vi] Capt. (3rd Rank) Evgenij A. KhMYROV, a Soviet Marine Inspector who was assigned to the Tampa Shipbuilding Company, TAMPA, Florida in January 1943.
- ^[vii] FINK: Possibly Capt. (1st Rank) Pavel A. PANTsYRNYJ.
- ^[viii] Captain DONALD: Unidentified.
- ^[ix] Lt. Nicholas Michael ANIKKEV, U.S. Navy interpreter, who assisted in the transfer of American ships to the Soviet Navy under the Lend-Lease program.
- ^[x] BUSHUEV: Probably the Soviet seaman Vasilij BUSHUEV who deserted in the U.S. in 1943. (See WASHINGTON-MOSCOW no. 1646 of 17 July 1943).
- ^[xi] 'RUSSELL: Unidentified.
- ^[xii] See WASHINGTON's no. 762 of 17 April 1943 -- "The NATIVES are waiting for visas."

Comments (cont'd.)!

- [xiii] KENT: Probably Capt. Nikolaj Alekseevich SKRYaGIN, Assistant Naval Attache, WASHINGTON.
- [xiv] JIM: Lt. Georgij Stepanovich PASKO, Secretary to the Soviet Naval Attache, WASHINGTON.
- [v] STEPANOV: Vice-Adm. G.A. STEPANOV, Acting Chief of Naval Staff.
- [xvi] [Name no. 91]: Probably Capt. (1st Rank) I. A. EGO-RIChev, Soviet Naval Attache in WASHINGTON.

1 March 1971